Setting up Navinagar Thermal Power Station

† 1270. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration regarding setting up of Navinagar Thermal Power Station worth Rs. 8000 crores; and

(b) if so, by when it will be sanctioned by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Keeping in view the need to increase the capacity addition programme in Central Sector during 10th and 11th Plan, Navinagar project has been viewed as one of the potential projects for development and accordingly, the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been advised to initiate preliminary works of the project after assessing its feasibility and marketability of power to be generated from the project.

NTPC had requested all the beneficiaries in the Northem/Western regions to intimate their power requirement from this project. However, there has been no positive response from them. In view of this, it is not possible at this stage to indicate any time frame for sanctioning of the project by the Central Government.

Ramagundam Power Plant in Andhra Pradesh

1271. SHRI K. RAMAMOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC finalised the bids for 500 MW State III of the Ramagundam Power Plant in Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that there were no private sector bidders for this power plant; and

(c) how many public sector companies have submitted their bids apart from BHEL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a)The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is yet to finalize the bids received for main plant turnkey packages of Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Project Stage-Ill (1x500 MW). Post bid discussions including price negotiations are currently under progress.

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi

(b) A total of sixteen prospective bidders, comprising domestic and foreign bidders, purchased the bidding documents but only BHEL submitted bid.

(c) No public sector undertaking other than the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) submitted their bid for the main plant turnkey package for Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Project State-IH (1 x500 MW).

Privatisation of SEBs

1272. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after a decade of liberalized regime both the Govemment and investors in the power have concentrated on generation projects while transmission and distribution projects awaited investments;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) what were the findings of the recent incident when the entire northern grid collapsed;

(d) whether it is also a fact that privatisation of distribution is expected to reduce the distribution losses; and

(e) what are the plans to bring investment in this sector to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTIMEHTA): (a), (b), (d) and (e) Entry of private sector in generation was facilitated by the policy changes introduced in 1991. The enactment of Electricity Law (Amendment) Act, 1998 (Act No. 22 of 1998) and the initiation of the reforms and restructuring in power sector, enabling investment from private sector in the field of transmission and distribution are expected to result in greater investment and efficiency in this area and in reduction of transmission and distribution losses in the States.

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. as the Central Transmission Utility has identified the Transmission system for evacuation of power from Tala Hydro-electric project in Bhutan (1020 MW) for execution through Joint Venture arrangements and for this purpose POWERGRID is setting up a Joint Venture Company. POWERGRID has also identified projects to be taken up with 100% equity participation from the private investors as Independent Power Transmission Company (IPTC). The IPTC will be selected on the basis of tariff based bidding.